



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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Ireland

Livestock and Products

Egyptian veterinarians visit Irish meat slaughtering plant 2002

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Report Highlights:

An Egyptian veterinarian team is visiting an Irish meat plant to discuss acceptable specifications for beef exports to Egypt. A trial shipment however is not expected to signify an early resumption of large volumes of exports there.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
London [UK1], EI

A team of three Egyptian veterinarians is currently in Ireland discussing and overseeing the processing of beef at one meat plant. According to our trade contacts the veterinarians are overseeing the slaughter of steers and bulls aged under 24 months (with age judged on dentation) for a trial export shipment of 60 tonnes to Egypt. The team is understood to be detailing the specifications of the cattle, the carcasses and the specific cuts that would be acceptable to the Egyptian authorities.

It would seem that this visit does not signify the re-start of exports of significant volumes of beef to Egypt. In the past annual exports from Ireland to Egypt have exceeded 100,000 tonnes but have been suspended since December 2000 because of the EU-wide BSE scare. The meat slaughtering plant involved is clearly interested in qualifying itself for commercial exports to Egypt if contracts can be negotiated and is eagerly laying the groundwork. General indications are that significant contracts are not yet on the horizon as we understand that Egyptian import needs are currently being well catered for by cheaper (than EU export prices) imports from South American sources.